



## THE AFTERMATH



*Searches, sorrow in wake of Ida's destructive, deadly floods*

Workers pump water from a flooded section of Interstate 676 in Philadelphia Friday, Sept. 3, 2021 in the aftermath of downpours and high winds from the remnants of Hurricane Ida that hit the area.

Associated Press  
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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

**SUNDAY:**  
TICO KOCK  
STEEL DRUM  
4 - 6pm

**MONDAY:**  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**TUESDAY:**  
JEAN PAUL  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**  
PAULA RIDERSTAP  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**THURSDAY:**  
RICKY THOMAS  
GUITAR  
7 - 9pm

**FRIDAY:**  
RICKY THOMAS  
GUITAR  
7 - 9pm

**SATURDAY:**  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

PAULA RIDERSTAP  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**Happy Hour**  
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*

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9:00 - 11:00pm



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# Searches, sorrow in wake of Ida's destructive, deadly floods

From Front

By MIKE CATALINI, WAYNE PARRY and MICHAEL R. SISK

Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — Police went door to door in search of more possible victims and drew up lists of the missing as the death toll rose to 49 on Friday in the catastrophic flooding set off across the Northeast by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

The disaster underscored with heartbreaking clarity how vulnerable the U.S. is to the extreme weather that climate change is bringing. In its wake, officials weighed far-reaching new measures to save lives in future storms.

More than three days after the hurricane blew ashore in Louisiana, Ida's rainy remains hit the Northeast with stunning fury on Wednesday and Thursday, submerging cars, swamping subway stations and basement apartments and drowning scores of people in five states.

Intense rain overwhelmed urban drainage systems never meant to handle so much water in such a short time — a record 3 inches in just an hour in New York. Seven rivers in the Northeast reached their highest levels on record, Dartmouth University researcher Evan Dethier said.

On Friday, communities labored to haul away ruined vehicles, pump out homes and highways, clear away muck and other debris and restore mass transit.

Even after clouds gave way to blue skies, some rivers and streams were still rising. Part of the swollen Passaic River in New Jersey wasn't expected to crest until Friday night.

"People think it's beautiful out, which it is, that this thing's behind us and we can go back to business as usual, and we're not there yet," New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy warned.

At least 25 people perished in New Jersey, the most of any state. Most drowned after their vehicles were caught in flash floods. A



Vehicles are under water during flooding in Norristown, Pa.

family of three and their neighbor were killed as 12 to 14 feet of water filled their apartments in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Across the street, Jennifer Vilchez said she could hear people crying, "Help! Help!" from their windows.

At least six people remained missing in the state, Murphy said.

In New York City, 11 people died when they were unable to escape rising water in their low-lying apartments. A man, woman and 2-year-old boy perished as their Queens street turned into a raging gully, hemmed in by a concrete wall on the nearby Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

New York's subways were running Friday with delays or not at all. North of the city, commuter train service remained suspended or severely curtailed. In the Hudson Valley, train tracks were covered in several feet of mud.

Floodwaters and a falling tree also took lives in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York.

While the storm ravaged homes and the electrical grid in Louisiana and Mississippi, leaving more than 800,000 people without power as of Friday, it seemingly proved more le-

thal over 1,000 miles away, where the Northeast death toll outstripped the 13 lives reported lost so far in the Deep South.

Ida stands as the deadliest hurricane in the U.S. in four years.

In a second wave of calamity in the Northeast, fires broke out in swamped homes and businesses, many inaccessible to firefighters because of floodwaters. Authorities said gas leaks triggered by flooding were likely to blame.

A Manville, New Jersey banquet hall exploded in flames around 2 a.m. Friday. Its owner, Jayesh Mehta, said he felt helpless and heartbroken looking at videos of his burning business. "I don't know what to do and how to deal with something like this," Mehta told NJ Advance Media.

In Philadelphia, part of the crosstown Vine Street Expressway remained flooded after the Schuylkill River reached its highest level since 1902. An inch-thick layer of mud was left where the road had dried.

Officials said they wanted to get the highway reopened by Saturday afternoon, when thousands of people are expected for the two-day Made in America music festival, which

Mayor Jim Kenney insisted will go on as planned.

In New York City, teams of police officers knocked on doors to check for anyone left behind. Police reviewed emergency calls from when the storm hit to pinpoint where people may have been in harm's way. Calls to the city's 911 system Wednesday night peaked at 12 times above normal.

In Wilmington, Delaware, crews rescued more than 200 people after the Brandywine River reached record levels, swamping roads, bridges and homes. No major injuries were reported.

Ida came ashore Sunday in Louisiana tied as the fifth-strongest storm to ever hit the U.S. mainland, then moved north. Forecasters warned of hazardous flooding, but the ferocity of the storm caught the nation's most densely populated metropolitan corridor by surprise.

In Manville, New Jersey, storm evacuees told the same story: an urgent knock on the door, a wall of water crashing into their apartments, being rescued by boat and taken to higher ground — until that ground also flooded, necessitating a second rescue.

Richie Leonardis, a 60-year-old who has had one leg amputated and uses a wheelchair, said a siren went off around 4 a.m. Thursday. Within minutes, police knocked on his door, urging him to evacuate.

"When I opened the door, the water rushed in and almost knocked me out of my wheelchair," he said. "The cops had to grab me to keep me from going under the water."

Richard Leoncini said 6 feet of water rushed in when he opened his door, knocking him backwards.

"The fire department came and got me in a boat," Leoncini, 65, said. "You're waiting for that boat to arrive and you're surrounded by water in your apartment and you're thinking, 'How am I going to get out of this?'"

Leaders in some states pledged to examine whether anything could be done to prevent a catastrophe like this from happening again.

New Jersey and New York have both spent billions of dollars improving flood defenses after Superstorm Sandy hit in 2012, but much of that work was focused primarily on protecting communities from seawater, not rain.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the region needs to turn its attention to storm water systems unprepared to handle a future of more frequent flash flooding because of climate change.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city will work to clear people from roads, subway trains and basement apartments in advance of major rainstorms, and will ban travel as it does during major snowstorms. He said the city will also send cellphone alerts warning people to leave basement apartments and dispatch city workers to get them to shelters.

"It's not just saying to people you have to get out of your apartment," de Blasio said.

"It's going door to door with our first responders and other city agencies to get people out." □

# U.S. expects to admit more than 50,000 evacuated Afghans

By **BEN FOX** and  
**ELLEN KNICKMEYER**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — At least 50,000 Afghans are expected to be admitted into the United States following the fall of Kabul as part of an “enduring commitment” to help people who aided the American war effort and others who are particularly vulnerable under Taliban rule, the secretary of homeland security said Friday.

Tens of thousands of Afghans have already made it through security vetting and arrived in the U.S. to begin the process of resettlement. Exactly how many more will come and how long it will take remain open questions, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said as he outlined the effort.

“Our commitment is an enduring one,” he told reporters. “This is not just a matter of the next several weeks. We will not rest until we have accomplished the ultimate goal.”

Mayorkas and other Biden administration officials are providing the most detailed look to date at what began as a frantic and chaotic effort to evacuate U.S. citizens, permanent residents and Afghans before the Aug. 30 withdrawal of American troops and the end of the country’s lon-



**Families evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan, walk through the terminal before boarding a bus after they arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport, in Chantilly, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021.**

gest war.

Jack Markell, former governor of Delaware, will serve as coordinator of what the White House is calling “Operation Allies Welcome.” He will work alongside the National Security Council, Domestic Policy Council, DHS, and other federal agencies “to ensure vulnerable Afghans who pass screening and vetting reviews are safely and efficiently resettled here in the United States,” said Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House principal deputy press secretary. The appointment is

expected to run through the end of the year.

Nearly 130,000 were airlifted out of Afghanistan in one of the largest mass evacuations in U.S. history. Many of those people are still in transit, undergoing security vetting and screening in other countries, including Germany, Spain, Kuwait and Qatar.

Mayorkas said there have been some evacuees who have been stopped at transit countries because of “derogatory information,” though he provided no details. It is unclear what

happens to any Afghans who don’t make it through the security screening at the overseas transit points, though the secretary said the U.S. is working with its allies to address the issue.

More than 40,000 have arrived in the U.S. so far. Mayorkas said about 20% are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The rest are people who have received or are in the process of receiving what’s known as a Special Immigrant Visa — for those who worked for the American military or NATO as interpreters or

in some other capacity — and Afghans considered particularly vulnerable under Taliban rule, such as journalists and employees of nongovernmental organizations.

“We have a moral imperative to protect them, to support those who have supported this nation,” said Mayorkas, who as a child came to the U.S. as a refugee from Cuba with his family.

“Our mission is not accomplished until we have safely evacuated all U.S. citizens who wish to leave Afghanistan or lawful permanent residents, all individuals who have assisted the United States in Afghanistan,” he said. “This effort will not end until we achieve that goal.”

Though the U.S. airlift has ended, Taliban officials have said they would allow people with valid travel papers to leave, and they may feel compelled not to backtrack as they seek to continue receiving foreign aid and run the government.

Most of the Afghans who have arrived in the U.S. are being housed on military bases around the country, receiving medical treatment, assistance with submitting immigration applications and other services aimed at helping them settle in the country. □

Associated Press

## Rocket ‘terminated’ in fiery explosion over Pacific Ocean

**VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)** —

A privately designed, unmanned rocket built to carry satellites was destroyed in an explosive fireball after suffering an “anomaly” off the California coast during its first attempt at reaching Earth’s orbit.

Firefly Aerospace’s Alpha rocket was “terminated” over the Pacific Ocean shortly after its 6:59 p.m. Thursday liftoff from Vandenberg Space Force Base, according to a base statement. Video from the San Luis Obispo Tribune showed the explosion.

Firefly said an “anomaly” occurred during the first-stage ascent that “resulted in the loss of the vehicle” about two minutes, 30 seconds into the flight. Vandenberg said a team of investigators will try to determine what caused the failure.

The rocket was carrying a payload called DREAM, or the Dedicated Research and Education Accelerator Mission. It consisted of items from schools and other institutions, including small satellites and several demonstration spacecraft.

“While we did not meet

all of our mission objectives, we did achieve a number of them: successful first stage ignition, liftoff of the pad, progression to supersonic speed, and we obtained a substantial amount of flight data,” Firefly said in a statement. The information will be applied to future missions.

Austin, Texas-based Firefly is developing various launch and space vehicles, including a lunar lander. Its Alpha rocket was designed to target the growing market for launching small satellites into Earth orbit.

Standing 95 feet (26 me-



**A rocket launched by Firefly Aerospace, the latest entrant in the New Space sector, is seen exploding minutes after lifting off from the central California coast on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021.**

Associated Press

ters) high, the two-stage Alpha is designed to carry up to 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms) of payload into low orbit. The company wants

to be capable of launching Alphas twice a month. Launches would have a starting price of \$15 million, according to Firefly. □

# White House urged to shutter privately run Kansas prison

By ROXANA HEGEMAN and  
HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH  
Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. (AP) —

A privately run maximum security federal prison in Kansas is dangerous and should be shut down when its contract expires at the end of this year, civil rights advocates and federal public defenders urged the White House in a letter.

The 10-page letter emailed Thursday to a White House office and local officials details stabbings, suicides, a homicide and inmate rights violations that happened this year at the Leavenworth Detention Center. The letter blamed understaffing and poor management by operator CoreCivic.

Among the incidents it cites was one in February in which an inmate was beaten and sent to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The next day, an inmate threw hot water on a female correctional officer, stabbed her and then kicked another officer. The officers were taken to the hospital with severe injuries after other inmates intervened to save them.

The privately run prison is separate from Leavenworth's more well known federal penitentiary, where infamous mobsters and, more recently, former foot-



This Aug. 26, 2016, file photo shows a look down Highway Terrace in Leavenworth, Kan., at the main gate of the Leavenworth Detention Center of Corrections Corporation of America.

Associated Press

ball star Michael Vick, were held.

CoreCivic described its critics' claims as "false and defamatory" in a written statement Friday.

"These allegations are designed to exert political pressure rather than to serve as an objective assessment of the work our dedicated (Leavenworth Detention Center) staff has done to serve the needs of the United States Marshals Service," the company said.

The letter was signed by legal directors for American Civil Liberties Union affiliates in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, and by the

heads of federal public defender offices for districts whose pretrial detainees are incarcerated at the prison.

They wrote that CoreCivic has tried to pressure government entities to keep the prison open by renewing or extending its contract with the U.S. Marshals Service or entering one with Leavenworth County that would allow CoreCivic to run the facility. The county declined CoreCivic's proposal, but the company has asked it to reconsider.

The White House has the opportunity to put meaning behind President Joe Biden's executive order

regarding the closure of private detention facilities, the critics contend.

"We can think of few places worthier of immediate action than this facility, which has proven itself to be increasingly dangerous and incapable of upholding the constitutional of those imprisoned there," they wrote.

In its statement, CoreCivic wrote that the ACLU aims to end all private prisons, and the company said its critics' letter contained bias throughout.

Neither White House spokeswoman, Emilie Simons, nor Leavenworth County Administrator Mark

Loughry immediately responded to emails seeking comment about the matter.

The detention center, located about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Kansas City, Missouri, houses inmates facing federal charges primarily from the court system's Western District of Missouri, District of Kansas and District of Nebraska. It can hold up to 1,033 people.

Between May and July of this year, it averaged more than 36 violent incidents a month, according to the letter. The prison also had two suicides this year, including one in which nothing was done despite the family notifying officials that the detainee was suicidal, and several cases in which inmates were stabbed or otherwise attacked. The letter also alleges that a correctional officer sodomized a detainee during a search in the middle of the night.

The ACLU of Kansas also says it has received complaints that staff routinely lock people in showers with running water as a form of punishment.

Some doors in the prison don't lock and inmates routinely barricade themselves inside their cells at night for their own protection, according to the letter. □



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019 file photo, Founder and CEO of Bumble, Whitney Wolfe Herd, speaks during the TIME 100 Summit, in New York.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The chief executive of Tinder-owner Match Group has sharply criticized the new law prohibiting most abortions in Texas and says she is setting up a fund to help any Tex-

as-based employees who need to seek an abortion outside the state.

Rival dating app Bumble also criticized the law and announced on Instagram it will donate funds to six

## Match Group CEO, Bumble decry Texas law, start aid funds

organizations that support women's reproductive rights. Both companies are based in Texas and led by women. Dallas-based Match Group said CEO Shar Dubey is creating the fund on her own and not through the company. She spoke out against the law in a memo to employees Thursday. "I immigrated to America from India over 25 years ago and I have to say, as a Texas resident, I am shocked that I now live in a state where women's reproductive laws are more regressive than most of the world, including India," Dubey said in the memo.

Dubey said her fund would help cover any additional costs incurred by Match Group employees if they need to travel outside the state to seek an abortion. Her statement came after Austin-based Bumble, which is led by CEO Whitney Wolfe, spoke out against the law on social media.

"Bumble is women-founded and women-led, and from day one we've stood up for the most vulnerable. We'll keep fighting against regressive laws like #SB8," Bumble said on Twitter.

The Texas law, which took effect Tuesday after the

Supreme Court denied an emergency appeal from abortion providers, bans abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity, usually around six weeks and often before women know they're pregnant.

Rather than be enforced by government authorities, the law gives citizens the right to file civil suits and collect damages against anyone aiding an abortion. It does not make exceptions for rape or incest.

The law constitutes the biggest curb to the constitutional right to an abortion in decades. □

# Global biodiversity conference opens in southern France

By DANIEL COLE and SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France (AP) —

Ahead of a global summit on biodiversity in France, President Emmanuel Macron has called for better protection of the world's high seas, which largely don't fall under any national jurisdiction but are threatened by fishing and other human activities.

Macron will formally open later Friday the World Conservation Congress in the southern city of Marseille, on France's Mediterranean coast. He is expected to urge world leaders and institutions to safeguard biodiversity as they work to curb climate change and support human welfare. Thousands of people are set to attend the event, both in person and virtually, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference, held every four years, focuses on urgent action needed to protect wildlife. Several recent studies have reported that many of the planet's ecosystems are severely strained by global warming, overuse and other threats. Oceanic shark populations have dropped by 71% since 1970. More than half of all bird of prey



French President Emmanuel Macron, right, and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi walk before a dinner Thursday Sept. 2, 2021, as part of his three-day visit in Marseille, southern France.

Associated Press

species worldwide are declining in population and 18 species are critically endangered. Warming temperatures and melting ice are projected to imperil 70% of Emperor penguin colonies by 2050, and 98% by 2100.

Speaking to reporters, Macron announced the creation of a new global event meant to protect the high seas which cover about half the planet's surface. The "One Ocean Summit"

will be organized in France in coming months in coordination with the United Nations, he said.

"When we talk about oceans, 60% of these areas do not fall under a (national) jurisdiction," Macron stressed.

The summit will aim at creating an international ocean law, he said. "Because otherwise, some nations do whatever they want in the high seas and may destroy biodiversity

and at the same time may also make choices which, from a geopolitical point of view, are bad."

On Friday morning, Macron and other conference participants, including European Council President Charles Michel, took a boat to Calanques National Park, a marine reserve near Marseille known for its blue waters topped by high white cliffs.

Macron said he wants to extend the French parts of

the Mediterranean Sea under "very high protection," which implies a ban on fishing. They now represent a very small area.

"We see that when we protect well, we succeed in regenerating species, regenerating biodiversity," Macron said after his boat trip to the Calanques reserve, which is home to dolphins, fin whales, turtles and a variety of fish. Its coastal area also includes 1,600 plant species and 25 protected bird species.

The conference is hosted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, made up of 1,400 private and government entities. A French top official, speaking anonymously in accordance with the presidency's customary practices, said Macron would convey a message about the "environmental emergency" unfolding at the local, national and global levels. "Our ecosystems and their protection are an essential solution to face the challenge of climate change...Lots of examples show that biodiversity helps with absorbing greenhouse gas," the official said. "On the contrary, we know that climate change is a major factor in biodiversity loss." □

## Trudeau criticized for calling Canadian election in 4th wave

MONTREAL (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his decision to call an election during the pandemic in first debate of the campaign for this month's election.

Trudeau is facing a tough re-election battle against his Conservative Party rival, Erin O'Toole. The vote is Sept. 20. "Why did you trigger an election in the middle of a fourth wave?" O'Toole asked Trudeau at the French-language debate in Montreal.

Trudeau said he needs a mandate from voters.

"Almost 80 percent of Canadians have done the right thing, they got vaccinated, twice in fact," said Trudeau, noting Canada is having a fourth wave be-

cause 20 percent are unvaccinated. And because of them we have to stop democracy from working? No," Trudeau said.

He criticized O'Toole for not requiring his candidates to be vaccinated.

O'Toole said he believes the country can find reasonable accommodations for those who are unvaccinated, like rapid testing and social distancing.

Four provinces including Quebec and Ontario, Canada's largest, are bringing in vaccine passports that require citizens to be vaccinated to enter places like restaurants and gyms.

Trudeau called the election last month seeking to win the majority of seats in Parliament but polls show

that is unlikely and that he might even lose power to O'Toole and the Conservative party.

Trudeau had wanted to capitalize on the fact that Canada is now one of the most fully vaccinated countries in the world, but the country is now in a fourth wave driven by the delta variant.

Daniel Beland, a politics professor at McGill University in Montreal, said Trudeau held his ground.

"His combative performance might help stop the bleeding for the Liberals or, at least, reassure his base that he still has fire in his belly," Beland said.

The 49-year-old Trudeau, the son of the late Liberal Prime Minister Pierre

Trudeau, became the second youngest prime minister in Canadian history when he was first elected with a majority of seats in Parliament in 2015. He reasserted liberalism in 2015 after almost 10 years of Conservative Party govern-

ment in Canada, but scandals combined with high expectations damaged his brand. His father served as prime minister from 1968 to 1984 with a short interruption and remains one of the few Canadian politicians known in other countries. □



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talks with reporters after taking part in a virtual G7 meeting on the crisis in Afghanistan from Hamilton, Ontario, on Tuesday, Aug 24, 2021.

Associated Press

# EXPLAINER: Mexico confronts complex position on immigration

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico has faced immigration pressures from the north, south and within its own borders in recent weeks, putting it in an increasingly difficult position.

Thousands of migrants continue to cross its southern border, the United States sends thousands more back from the north and there's the renewed prospect of the U.S. making asylum seekers wait in Mexico for long periods of time. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Thursday the strategy of containing migrants in the south was untenable on its own and more investment is needed in the region to keep Central Americans from leaving their homes. But the groups of migrants walking north from southern Mexico in recent days have mostly been Haitians, a group that would not be addressed by the president's proposed tree planting and youth employment programs in Central America.

## **MEXICO'S SOUTHERN BORDER**

Protests among the thousands of mostly Haitian migrants stuck in the southern city of Tapachula have in-



**Mexican immigration agents detain a Haitian migrant in Escuintla, Chiapas state, Mexico, Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021.**

tensified in recent weeks. Many have been waiting there for months, some up to a year, for asylum requests to be processed. Mexico's refugee agency, which handles the applications, is overwhelmed. It was already behind and the pandemic slowed things even more. So far this year, more than 77,000 have applied for protected status in Mexico, 55,000 of those in Tapachula. Haitians account for about 19,000 of those applicants. Tapachula's shelters are full, leaving many asylum

seekers to live in unsanitary conditions while they wait. Without the ability to work, many have few options. Frustrated by the delay and their living conditions, some began to organize in groups of hundreds. Last Saturday, several groups began walking out of Tapachula headed north. The groups have so far been dispersed and-or detained by Mexican authorities, sometimes with excessive force.

## **MEXICO'S NORTHERN BORDER**

Concern has been growing

in northern Mexico since the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the restart of the controversial program that made asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases are processed. The Trump-era policy called the Migrant Protection Protocols, but better known as "Remain in Mexico," led to more than 70,000 asylum seekers waiting, mostly in dangerous Mexican border cities. The Biden administration ended the program earlier this year and said it would appeal the court decision even as the De-

partment of Homeland Security takes steps to comply. On the ground, asylum seekers trying to enter the U.S. have been frozen out. Shelters in northern Mexico fear they could soon be overwhelmed again by returned asylum seekers. The Mexican government has not said how it will respond. Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues the rapid removal of migrants under a pandemic-related authority invoked by the Trump administration. So far this year, the U.S. government has made 674,000 expulsions under that Title 42 authority.

## **U.S. EXPULSIONS TO SOUTHERN MEXICO**

U.S. officials are also flying thousands of migrants from other countries to southern Mexico, where Mexican authorities drive them to remote locations on its border with Guatemala and drop them off. The idea is to reduce returns by making it more difficult for migrants to reach the U.S. again. Mexico is similarly moving migrants detained in the north to its southern border, said Dana Graber Ladek, Mexico chief for the International Organization for Migration, a part of the United Nations system. □

# Nicaragua presidential aspirant charged, will face trial

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)** — One-time Nicaragua presidential aspirant Cristiana Chamorro and one of her brothers were among five people formally charged with money laundering Thursday, prosecutors announced.

In a statement, prosecutors said Chamorro, Pedro Joaquín Chamorro and three former employees of the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation will be tried for money laundering and other alleged crimes.

Cristiana Chamorro has been under house arrest since June 2. Her arrest was one of the first of a wave of detentions against op-

position leaders, including seven potential presidential candidates. President Daniel Ortega is seeking a fourth consecutive term in office Nov. 7.

Chamorro has maintained her innocence. She is the daughter of former President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

To clear the path toward reelection, Ortega's government has moved against a number of nongovernmental organizations it views as opposition. The president has claimed that organizations receiving funding from abroad were part of a broader conspiracy to remove him from office in 2018.

Following the arrest of Chamorro and other former foundation employees, the U.S. State Department said in a statement, "Their detention on trumped up charges is an abuse of their rights, and it represents an assault on democratic values as well as a clear attempt to thwart free and fair elections."

In January, she stepped down from her role at the foundation. A month later, it closed its operations in Nicaragua after passage of a "foreign agents" law designed to track foreign funding of organizations operating in the country. The nongovernmental Nicaraguan Human Rights



**In this May 21, 2021 file photo, Cristiana Chamorro, former director of the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation for Reconciliation and Democracy, and daughter of a former president, arrives at the public Ministry where she was called for a meeting to explain alleged "inconsistencies" in financial reports filed with the government between 2015 and 2019 in Managua, Nicaragua.**

**Associated Press**

Center said Thursday the hearing took place at the Managua prison where many political prisoners are being held. There was no access for family members or the public.

Prosecutors said Thursday that five other accused in the case, including another Chamorro brother, journalist Carlos Fernando Chamorro, are fugitives in the case. □

# With no tourist handouts, hungry Bali monkeys raid homes

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI  
and NINIEK KARMINI  
Associated Press

**SANGEH, Indonesia (AP)** — Deprived of their preferred food source — the bananas, peanuts and other goodies brought in by tourists now kept away by the coronavirus — hungry monkeys on the resort island of Bali have taken to raiding villagers' homes in their search for something tasty. Villagers in Sangeh say the gray long-tailed macaques have been venturing out from a sanctuary about 500 meters (yards) away to hang out on their roofs and await the right time to swoop down and snatch a snack.

Worried that the sporadic sorties will escalate into an all-out monkey assault on the village, residents have been taking fruit, peanuts and other food to the Sangeh Monkey Forest to try to placate the primates. "We are afraid that the hungry monkeys will turn wild and vicious," villager Saskara Gustu Alit said. About 600 of the macaques live in the forest



Macaques eat bananas during feeding time at Sangeh Monkey Forest in Sangeh, Bali Island, Indonesia, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

sanctuary, swinging from the tall nutmeg trees and leaping about the famous Pura Bukit Sari temple, and are considered sacred. In normal times the protected jungle area in the southeast of the Indonesian island is popular among local residents for wedding photos, as well as among international visitors. The

relatively tame monkeys can be easily coaxed to sit on a shoulder or lap for a peanut or two. Ordinarily, tourism is the main source of income for Bali's 4 million residents, who welcomed more than 5 million foreign visitors annually before the pandemic. The Sangeh Monkey Forest typically had about

6,000 visitors a month, but as the pandemic spread last year and international travel dropped off dramatically, that number dropped to about 500. Since July, when Indonesia banned all foreign travelers to the island and shut the sanctuary to local residents as well, there has been nobody. Not only has that

meant nobody bringing in extra food for the monkeys, the sanctuary has also lost out on its admission fees and is running low on money to purchase food for them, said operations manager Made Mohon. The donations from villagers have helped, but they are also feeling the economic pinch and are gradually giving less and less, he said. "This prolonged pandemic is beyond our expectations," Made Mohon said, "Food for monkeys has become a problem." Food costs run about 850,000 rupiah (\$60) a day, Made Mohon said, for 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of cassava, the monkeys' staple food, and 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of bananas. The macaque is an omnivore and can eat a variety of animals and plants found in the jungle, but those in the Sangeh Monkey Forest have had enough contact with humans over the years that they seem to prefer other things. And they're not afraid to take matters into their own hands, Gustu Alit said. □

Associated Press

## Worshippers pray at gas station in Lebanon amid fuel crisis

**JIYEH, Lebanon (AP)** — Dozens of worshippers knelt in prayer Friday at the center of hundreds of cars and unruly motorists surrounding a gas station south of Beirut. Sheikh Ali al-Hussein led the session to highlight the hardship suffered by people

who could not leave their spots in line for gas during the worst economic crisis in Lebanon's history. So, he says, he brought the mosque to the people, who were queued up for five kilometers (three miles) near a station in Jiyeh.



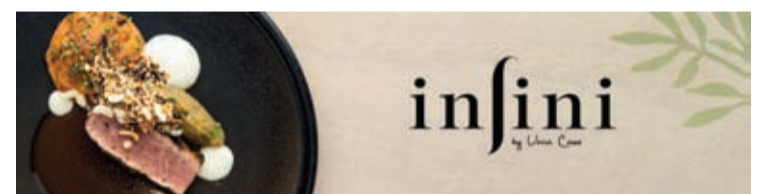
Muslim worshippers pray during Friday prayers at a gas station to protest severe fuel shortages that Lebanon has been witnessing for weeks, in the coastal town of Jiyeh, south of Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Sept. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

He blasted politicians for their corruption and mismanagement.

"The aim is to send a message to the political class which is to blame for the miseries of this nation," he said.

The session underscored Lebanon's economic and financial crisis, which has plunged more than half the population in poverty. The two-year crisis has been compounded by the pandemic and last year's massive blast at Beirut port that killed at least 214 people and destroyed large parts of the city. The results include crippling power cuts and severe shortages of gasoline and diesel that have been blamed on smuggling, hoarding and the cash-strapped government's inability to secure deliveries of oil products. □



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## Foundation “Ban uni man pa cria nos muchanan” needs a helping hand Feeding the needy children of Aruba every school day

ORANJESTAD — “Ban uni man pa cria nos muchanan” is a foundation whose goal it is to provide the needy children of Aruba with a breakfast every school day. A breakfast which consists of a sandwich and a drink (juice or milk). It is an independent foundation, receiving no subsidy whatsoever from the government.



The program started at the beginning of the 2001/2002 schoolyear as a community service project of the Facility Department of the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital, with 138 children. At

the closing of the schoolyear 320 children were enrolled and this kept growing steadily each year. The 2019 schoolyear started with 650 children but as the schools reopened after the peak of the pandem-

ic, the number of children grew to a staggering 794 children at the closing of the 2019-2020 schoolyear! These children are from 57 elementary schools all over the island. This number also includes about 70 children



of the Traimerdia project, which is an after school program. For over 20 years the foundation has been providing breakfast to children of elementary schools but they are aiming on some day also be able to provide kindergartens and high schools, seeing that there are many children in need.

The breakfast program is a sponsorship program; although the sponsors are encouraged to donate Fls 25.00 per month, the actual cost per child has doubled. Leaning towards Fls. 50.00 per month. Simple arithmetic shows that the current 450 sponsors are not enough. At Fls 50.00 per month it takes 800 sponsors to keep the program running – or a combination of sponsors and donations.

Due to the effect of the pandemic and the increase in consumption prices the foundation is expecting a big deficit for the new school year of 2021-2022. If they don't manage to get sufficient funds they will have to reduce the amount of children to 600, meaning that at least 200 children won't be able to receive a breakfast this year and they would have to make the difficult decision in choosing who will stay on the list and who to remove. The foundation will keep working hard and

do their utmost on getting these funds but they need the help of the community. If you feel inspired by this article, do not just turn the page but act upon it. You can help and support this wonderful foundation by making a donation to their bank account at the following banks: CMB 22559501, RBC 43.65.011 and at the Aruba Bank 2516290190.

For more information, or to receive a transcript of the Chamber of Commerce, the By-Laws or the latest Financial Report (2020-2021) of the foundation, please contact Mrs. Rachelle Roos at +297-527-4000 or Mrs. Felicia Halman at +297- 527-4750 or Mr. John Fun (President) at +297-527-4711 or at +297-699-4330.

Your support will help the children of this program at least have a breakfast every day. □



## The Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors At Marriott Ocean Club



**PALM BEACH** —Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Mr. Joseph Machiaverna and Mrs. Tracie Machiaverna, together with their son Joseph Machiaverna.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of The Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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## Holiday Inn Resort Aruba presents blissful brunch that brightens your day

**PALM BEACH** — Sundays are to enjoy to the fullest, who does not agree on that. Corals Restaurant at the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba understands this as no other. For a great price you get great value: an extensive, scrumptious, full varied Sunday Brunch Buffet with bottomless mimosas. Take a seat in the cool dining room with full window view at the big blue. This is the definition of a chill Sunday start with big taste!

"It all started with the perception of the ideal Sunday. Sundays are for brunch and mimosas and it appears a trend to take it easy in the morning and indulge into a blissful brunch", says Eva Ruiz, Marketing Director of the resort. "Who does not enjoy to wake up late on a Sunday and take it easy with a coffee, mimosas and everything you crave for?" The Holiday Inn Resort Aruba started this relaxing brunch in February and is positively surprised with the overwhelming enthusiasm. Guests of the resort, outside guests and locals find their way to their favorite brunch spot. Chef Aldwin Donata could not be happier. "We change the menu every Sunday keeping in the all-time favorites. It is great to see that so many find their way to us, but honestly there



is no place where you get this quality brunch for this price", he says with pride.

### Boosting Brunch

Jump-start your day and let's do this brunch. Relax, dive in and look around to make your selection at the extensive salad station, soup station, Asian station, carving station, Aruban station,

fruit station and bread station. All your breakfast and lunch favorites are here, believe us, and when you think you have fueled yourself with all the delicacies you can imagine there is one more you simply cannot skip: the heavenly dessert station with all home-made pastries, cakes and a chocolate fountain. Sunday Brunch at Corals is a must, treat

yourself and your loved ones because you deserve to maximize your day and get the best start.

For more information call +297 586 3600 or email the resort directly at [hiaruba@ihg.com](mailto:hiaruba@ihg.com).

Every Sunday from 11:00am to 2:00pm the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba is welcoming you, chef Donata and his crew will await you at Corals Restaurant for the \$35 Brunch Buffet (children 6-12 \$17.50) and children under 5 are free. ☐



## by law: Tourist leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals

**ORANJESTAD** — For the last months the customs department at the airport intercepted many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals as souvenirs.

Conform the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is completely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba, this in order to protect our environment. The high amount of seashell, sand and corals confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the once selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport the tourist also faces a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop selling these to our tourist. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals. Let's all protect what is ours! □



## Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Organizes Session Specific to Conservation in the Dutch Caribbean at the World Conservation Congress

*Governors of Bonaire and Sint Maarten to Deliver Remarks*

**WILLEMSTAD, CURACAO** — The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) will be organizing and leading sessions focusing on highlighting the need to increase support conservation actions in the Dutch Caribbean at the IUCN World Conservation Congress next week.

Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges.

Through its membership of both IUCN Netherlands and the IUCN Caribbean Committee, DCNA will aim to highlight that, despite being the biodiversity hotspot of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, (for the Dutch Caribbean) very little attention is placed on the preservation and conservation of nature, particularly as it relates to the pending impacts of climate change.

"We appreciate the opportunity to present the Dutch Caribbean at the World Conservation Congress, one of the largest conservation meetings on the global calendar. Although we have six park management organizations in the Dutch Caribbean doing excellent work, that work is not often enough highlighted. Another area we also aim to highlight during the meeting is the impacts climate change is having on our islands; all six of our islands are at the forefront of the climate crises and there should be more done by Governments both inside and outside of the region in terms of making the islands more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.," commented Tadzio Bervoets, Director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance.

The Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development, but this cannot be achieved by conservationists alone. The IUCN Congress is the place to put aside differences and work together to create good environmental governance, engaging all parts of society to share both the responsibilities and the benefits of conservation. At the Dutch Caribbean specific event organized by DCNA, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Honorary Patron Governor Holiday of Sint Maarten as well as the Lt. Governor Mr. Edison Rijna will also be giving remarks. □

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# Collectible prices skyrocket, to the dismay of hobbyists

By KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans have become obsessed with collectibles, bidding up prices for trading cards, video games and other mementos of their youth. The frenzy has brought small fortunes to some, but a deep frustration for those who still love to play games or trade cards as a hobby.

Among the items most sought after and even fought over are the relics of millennials' childhoods. These include copies of trading cards such as Pokemon's Charizard and Magic: The Gathering's Black Lotus as well as Nintendo's Super Mario Bros. game cartridges. Some cards are selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars and an unopened Super Mario game recently sold for a record \$2 million.

This is more than a case of opportunistic collectors looking to cash in on a burst of nostalgia triggered by the pandemic. Everyone seemingly is angling for a piece of the pie.

But while some collectors and investors see dollar signs, others complain about the breakdown of their tight-knit commu-



**Austin Deceder, displays a Black Lotus Magic card in his home office Friday, Aug. 27, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.**

nities. Players looking to play in-person again after the pandemic are unable to find the game pieces they want; if the pieces are available, prices have gone up astronomically.

"Prices are going up, and access is going down," said Brian Lewis, who operates a YouTube channel under the name Tolarian Community College.

The collectibles frenzy has been fueled partly by YouTube personalities. Logan Paul, who has 23 million

subscribers on YouTube, made several videos where he simply opens up boxes of vintage Pokemon cards, hyping the prices he'd paid and bringing in millions of views.

"It may be a burgeoning industry, but this is still big business. Brands want to reach these audiences," said Justin Kline, co-founder of Markerly, an influencer marketing agency. He estimates Paul may bring in six figures per video in advertising revenue.

The hype has sent collectors scrambling to find out if their Pikachu or Mox Emerald might be worth a fortune. To do so, they turn to grading services, which have been flooded with orders some with a wait time of over a year.

In response to record demand, companies are releasing new versions of the games, including premium products that command higher prices. Whether the momentum is sustainable, at least when it comes to

prices, is unknown.

But the frenzy goes beyond trading cards. The U.S. Mint released a 100th Anniversary collection of the Morgan silver dollar, considered by coin collectors to be one of the most beautiful designs ever made, early this summer. The products sold out in minutes.

There's also been record sales of vintage video games, from the Legend of Zelda to Super Mario 64.

Meanwhile, the trading card community is seeing its own lofty prices as players scramble to find coveted pieces for their collection. A mint condition Black Lotus from Magic: The Gathering's first set known as Alpha, sold in January for more than \$510,000. That price is double what a card in similar condition sold for six months before in July 2020.

Austin Deceder, 25, primarily buys and sells cards on Facebook and Twitter as a middleman between players wanting to get out of their games and new players. Deceder had a used Black Lotus card that he says he sold for \$7,000 in September 2020. "Here we are now and the price on that same card has doubled." □

Associated Press

## Kraft, former officials settle SEC charges for \$62 million

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Federal regulators said Friday that Kraft Heinz Co. will pay \$62 million to settle charges of accounting wrongdoing that led the company to report overly rosy financial results, which were later corrected.

Two former senior executives of the food company agreed to pay civil penalties, the Securities and Exchange Commission said. The SEC said that from late 2015 through 2018, Kraft boasted about cost savings that were actually unearned discounts and misleading reports about nearly 300 contracts with

suppliers.

The company's claims were widely picked up by Wall Street analysts, the SEC said, but in 2019 Kraft restated its financial results to correct \$208 million in improperly recognized cost savings.

The SEC alleged that Klaus Hofmann, Kraft's former chief procurement officer, approved improper contracts. The agency said former Chief Operating Officer Eduardo Pelleissone was given many warning signs that expenses were being manipulated but didn't address them and instead pressured the pro-

curement division to hit unrealistic savings targets. Pelleissone also approved the company's financial statements.

Kraft did not admit or deny the SEC's findings but agreed to avoid future violations and pay a civil penalty, the SEC said. Pelleissone will pay a civil penalty of \$300,000, and Hofmann will pay a \$100,000 fine and be barred from serving as an officer or director of a public company for five years, the agency said.

Anita Bandy, the associate director of the SEC's enforcement division, said



**This Wednesday, March 25, 2015, file photo shows the Kraft logo outside of the company's headquarters in Northfield, Ill.**

Associated Press

misleading contracts results in "millions in bogus cost savings" and hurt investors when the company restated financial results.

In 2019, Kraft restated results covering nearly three

years and disclosed that it was being investigated by the SEC for misconduct by procurement employees. The Chicago-based company was formed by a 2015 merger between Kraft Foods and Heinz. □

# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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5 Role for makeup  
Peck 43 Office  
9 Printer div.  
need 44 Beer,  
10 Chops slangily  
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Yesterday's answer

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9-4

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

QLE ZIJ MIB VEYGG BL NJ  
PJIJ. BPJ SLIVW MJJWA QLEI  
TJIATJYBHKJ. BPJQ ZIJ VEYGG  
BL PZKJ QLE. — ZMBL MHL  
BH XJHML

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE MOST DANGEROUS CREATION OF ANY SOCIETY IS THE MAN WHO HAS NOTHING TO LOSE — JAMES BALDWIN



In this Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, file photo, people are evacuated from floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in LaPlace, La.

Associated Press

## UN: Weather disasters soar in numbers, cost, but deaths fall

By SETH BORENSTEIN and JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — Weather disasters are striking the world four to five times more often and causing seven times more damage than in the 1970s, the United Nations weather agency reports.

But these disasters are killing far fewer people. In the 1970s and 1980s, they killed an average of about 170 people a day worldwide. In the 2010s, that dropped to about 40 per day, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report Wednesday that looks at more than 11,000 weather disasters in the past half-century. The report comes during a disaster-filled summer globally, including deadly floods in Germany and a heat wave in the Mediterranean, and with the United States simultaneously struck by powerful Hurricane Ida and an onslaught of drought-worsened wildfires.

"The good news is that we have been able to minimize the amount of casualties once we have started having growing amount of disasters: heatwaves, flooding events, drought, and especially ... intense

tropical storms like Ida, which has been hitting recently Louisiana and Mississippi in the United States," Petteri Taalas, WMO's secretary-general, told a news conference.

"But the bad news is that the economic losses have been growing very rapidly and this growth is supposed to continue," he added. "We are going to see more climatic extremes because of climate change, and these negative trends in climate will continue for the coming decades."

In the 1970s, the world averaged about 711 weather disasters a year, but from 2000 to 2009 that was up to 3,536 a year or nearly 10 a day, according to the report, which used data from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Belgium. The average number of yearly disasters dropped a bit in the 2010s to 3,165, the report said. Most death and damage during 50 years of weather disasters came from storms, flooding and drought. □



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# U.N.: Brief gains in air quality in 2020 over COVID lockdowns

By JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The U.N. weather agency says the world and especially urban areas experienced a brief, sharp drop in emissions of air pollutants last year amid lockdown measures and related travel restrictions put in place over the coronavirus pandemic. The World Meteorological Organization, releasing its first ever Air Quality and Climate Bulletin on Friday, cautioned that the reductions in pollution were patchy and many parts of the world showed levels that outpaced air quality guidelines. Some types of pollutants continued to emerge at regular or even higher levels.

"COVID-19 proved to be an unplanned air-quality experiment, and it did lead to temporary localized improvements," said Petteri Taalas, the WMO secretary-general. "But a pandemic is not a substitute for sustained and systematic action to tackle major drivers of both population and climate change and so safeguard the health of both people and planet." The WMO study analyzed changes in air quality around the main pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and ozone. The Geneva-based agency noted an "unprecedented decrease" in pollutant emissions as many governments restricted gatherings, closed schools, and imposed lockdowns. Oksana Tarasova, head of WMO's atmospheric environment research division, said the impact of such measures on major pollutants was short-lived. When measures to reduce mobility mean "there are no cars on the street, you see the improvement in air quality immediately. And of course, as soon as the cars go back on the street, you get the worsening back." That compared to "long-lead greenhouse gases" behind global warming like carbon dioxide, whose at-



In this Sunday, April 25, 2021 file photo, smog hangs over Mexico City.

Associated Press

mospheric levels can take many years to change. WMO cited declines of up to nearly 70% in average levels of nitrogen oxides, which are largely emitted through transportation and burning of fossil fuels. It also noted up to 40% drops the biggest ones recorded in southeast Asia of average levels of tiny particulate matter in the air during full lockdown measures last year, compared to the same periods from 2015 to 2019. Nitrogen oxides also destroy ozone in the air. Partially as a result of the drop in nitrogen oxides,

ozone levels which vary depending on location remained flat or slightly increased in some places. Carbon monoxide levels fell in all regions, especially South America.

One conundrum for policy makers is that some pollutants like sulfur dioxide in the air actually help to cool the atmosphere, partially offsetting the impacts of climate change. Tarasova said air quality was "very complex" and noted that events like wildfires in Australia, smoke from biomass burning in Siberia and the United

States, and the "Godzilla effect" — in which sand and dust drift from the Sahara Desert across the Atlantic to North America — also had effects on air quality last year. □



**ARUBA TODAY**

**Editor**  
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
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Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Assistant Director**  
Xiomara Arends

**Editors**  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)  
Richard Brooks

**Sales**  
Linda Reijnders  
Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**  
classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**  
accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**  
Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

**Columnists**  
Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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# Jam & Lewis are back for the first time with 'Volume One'

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)**— If anyone questions being too old to try something new, look no further than iconic music producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

"As you get older in life, we realized that there's less first times you get to actually experience things," said Jam. "For us, all the first times are very exciting."

Despite nearly four decades in the business, five Grammys and widespread reverence across the recording industry, the producing-songwriting duo known as Jam & Lewis recently accomplished one major goal: they released their debut album.

"Music has always still been a part of our lives, but we did take some time off to do some important things which was basically raise our kids," said Jam, a two-time chair of the Recording Academy. "Now, we're selfish again."

"Jam & Lewis, Volume One," which landed at #49 on Billboard's Independent albums chart, is a 10-song project featuring a who's who of R&B singers. Some are previous collaborators, like Mariah Carey, Usher, Mary J. Blige and Boyz II Men. Others are new partnerships such as Toni Braxton, Babyface and The



Jimmy Jam, left, and Terry Lewis pose for a portrait in New York on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Associated Press

Roots. "There's a thing that we call 'hang factor,' and I don't like working with people if I can't hang with them," explained Lewis. "We hang, we try to find out what the vision is, and then we start trying to create that vision."

The hang factor helped birth records like "Somewhat Loved" with Carey, which currently sits at #10 on Billboard's Adult R&B chart, a mid-tempo track featuring her emotionally lamenting about lost love. "He Don't Know Nothin' Bout It," which peaked at #4 on the same chart, mir-

rors past Babyface slow jams as he attempts to persuade a woman that she deserves better. There's also a quintessential Toni Braxton sound on "Happily Unhappy," a beautiful song about heartbreak that's so timeless, it could've been released two decades ago, yet still feels perfect today. Dubbing their sound "new nostalgia," the album doesn't push boundaries or dabble into the trap beats, heavy Auto-Tune and sing-song vibe of much of today's R&B. They chose to stay within the traditional soul sounds which made

these 2017 Songwriters Hall of Fame inductees uber-successful.

"It wasn't like we had a bunch of songs and it was like, 'Let's do these songs.' It was like ... let's make the perfect song for each artist," Jam said. "We want the fans to fall back in love or remember why they fell in love with those artists. But we also want the artists to fall back in love with themselves."

Jam, 64, born James Harris III, and Lewis, 62, grew up in Minneapolis with its bustling 1970s local music scene. Jam attended

middle school with Prince, and a post-high school reunion led them to start playing with Morris Day and the Time, with Prince doing most of the writing and producing. (Day is also featured on the album.)

After disagreeing on projects outside of The Time, Prince fired them, sparking Jam and Lewis' producing career. "There's not a day we don't think about him and we don't think about as we're making music. 'I think Prince would like this. I think he'd approve of this. He'd like what we're doing here,' said Jam, smiling.

The duo helped craft hits for the S.O.S Band, Chaka Khan, George Michael, New Edition and more, including classics like the uplifting "Optimistic" by Sounds of Blackness, "No More Drama" by Mary J. Blige, "Rhythm Nation" by Janet Jackson, "Scream," a collaboration with her legendary brother Michael, and "Open My Heart" by gospel icon Yolanda Adams. They're responsible for more than 50 Billboard No. 1 songs on the pop, R&B and dance charts — all while donning their signature all-black suits. ("All the decisions you have to make throughout a day, if you can take one decision out, that just leaves a hole for other thinking," explained Lewis.) □

## Elton John pairs with Nicki, Miley, many more on new album

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Elton John is releasing an album of collaborations with artists from several generations and genres, including Nicki Minaj, Young Thug, Miley Cyrus, Lil Nas X, Stevie Nicks and Stevie Wonder.

"The Lockdown Sessions," a collection of 16 songs featuring John with artists from Dua Lipa to the late Glen Campbell, will be released on Oct. 22 by Interscope Records, the label announced Wednesday. The pandemic project was spurred by John having to pause his "Farewell Yellow

Brick Road" tour in March 2020, and by his Apple

Music talk show "Rocket Hour," through which he



Elton John is seen after performing "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" nominated for the award for best original song from "Rocketman" at the Oscars on Feb. 9, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

got to know many of the artists he would work with. The tracks were recorded with the artists remote from each other in some cases, together with safety precautions in others.

John said it pushed him into very unfamiliar musical territory, dipping into hip-hop, country and electronic dance music, sometimes in the same song.

"I realised there was something weirdly familiar about working like this," he said in a statement announcing the album.

"At the start of my career, in the late 60s, I worked as

a session musician. Working with different artists during lockdown reminded me of that. I'd come full circle: I was a session musician again. And it was still a blast."

The opening track with Dua Lipa, "Cold Heart (PNAU Remix)," was released earlier this month.

John takes the lead on some of the tracks, including duets with Brandi Carlile and Eddie Vedder, and is a featured guest on others, including previously released recordings with Rina Sawayama and Surfaces. □

# Muguruza, Halep take rare strong US Open runs into 4th round

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Garbiñe Muguruza and Simona Halep have mastered the grass at Wimbledon and conquered the clay at the French Open.

Maybe they finally have the answers for the hard courts of the U.S. Open.

The two-time Grand Slam champions both pulled out three-set victories Friday to reach the fourth round of the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

Muguruza beat three-time U.S. Open finalist Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 to match her best showing in New York.

The No. 9 seed from Spain reached the round of 16 in 2017, right after winning her Wimbledon title. She hadn't been past the second round since, though said she's always liked playing in New York despite her struggles. "This year so far it's working, so I just want to keep going," Muguruza said. Same with Halep, who



**Garbine Muguruza, of Spain, reacts after beating Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, during the third round of the US Open tennis championships, Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, in New York.**

Associated Press

fought through a marathon first-set tiebreaker and eventually beat Elena Rybakina 7-6 (11), 4-6, 6-3 to reach the U.S. Open fourth round for the first time since 2016. Both players have been finalists at the Austra-

lian Open, also played on a hard court.

But the U.S. Open had proven a more difficult puzzle for both. Halep had lost in the first round in both 2017 and 2018 the latter the first time that had happened to the

No. 1 seed in the first round at the U.S. Open and her success this time was tough to expect after she missed Wimbledon and the French Open with a calf injury.

The No. 12 seed from Romania needed seven set

points to finally win the tiebreaker after she was broken at love when serving for the set at 6-5.

She eventually won it when the 19th-seeded Rybakina double-faulted, then worked her way to the round of 16 for the first time since reaching the quarterfinals in 2016.

Another matchup of women's Grand Slam champions was ahead later Friday when Sloane Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open winner, faced 2016 champion and No. 16 seed Angelique Kerber.

No. 3 seed Naomi Osaka, who won her second U.S. Open title last year, was expected to be back on the court for the first time since the first night of the tournament to face Leylah Fernandez in a third-round evening match.

Osaka received a walkover into the third round when opponent Olga Danilovic withdrew Wednesday with a viral illness unrelated to COVID-19. □

## Cubs' Ross, Hoyer test positive for COVID-19; Green ejected

By **JAY COHEN**

AP Baseball Writer

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Chicago Cubs manager David Ross and president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer have tested positive for COVID-19.

A spokesman for the team said Ross and Hoyer are feeling fine and quarantining. Both of them are vaccinated.

Ross and Hoyer likely will have to stay away from the team for at least 10 days, though Major League Baseball has made exceptions for individuals cleared by its medical experts if determined to be not infectious. Bench coach Andy Green will run the team while Ross is away, but he was ejected by second base umpire Tom Hallion in

the sixth inning of Friday's game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

It looked as if Green was upset with Kevin Newman's slide into second on a potential double play that turned into a throwing error on Cubs shortstop Sergio Alcántara, bringing home a run. Green threw his hat down after he was thrown out, and then continued his argument with Hallion before departing to a round of cheers from the crowd at Wrigley Field. Green said before the game that Ross' close contacts had been tested and there were no other positive COVID-19 tests within the clubhouse.

"So our expectation is that everybody on our roster's ready to go and ready to play today," he said.

The Cubs are among a handful of big league teams that have failed to reach the 85% vaccination threshold required for the

relaxation of MLB's COVID-19 protocols.

Green said the team is planning to make some changes in light of the pair of positive tests. He also said there were no conversations about canceling Friday's game.

"We take COVID incredibly seriously around here," Green said. "We're going to do a number of things and not just test his close contacts. We're going to try to reduce our time in the clubhouse over the coming week, to try to mitigate as much as humanly possible the spread of it."

Green, 44, is in his second season as Ross' bench coach. Green managed the San Diego Padres for almost four seasons before he was fired in September 2019.

He said it will be tough not having Ross around.

"He's a lot of fun. He makes the clubhouse a lively place," Green said.

"You hear him before you see him. Not everybody in the world is like that, so it's going to suck not being around him for the next 10 days. We hope all of us stay healthy and continue to test negative so we don't have any further spread."

The positive tests for Ross and Hoyer come with the Cubs likely headed for their worst finish since they went 73-89 in 2014. They had at least a share of first place as late as June 24 before an 11-game slide sent them spiraling out of contention.

Hoyer expressed frustration with the team's vaccination rate in May, arguing that falling short of the 85% threshold was "a real competitive advantage that we're going to miss."

The Cubs had two coaches test positive for COVID-19 back in April, playing a role in a flurry of moves for the team. □



**In this Aug. 12, 2021, file photo, Chicago Cubs manager David Ross watches from the dugout during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Chicago.**

Associated Press

# NHL reaches agreement to send players to Olympics in Beijing

By **STEPHEN WHYNO and JOHN WAWROW**  
AP Hockey Writers

The NHL is set to return to the Olympics in Beijing this winter after reaching an agreement with international officials, though the league and players have the opportunity to withdraw if pandemic circumstances warrant.

The NHL, its players' union, the International Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation struck a deal Friday that will put the best players in the world back on sports' biggest stage in February after they skipped the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

"It was not easy, but we did it," IIHF president Rene Fasel told The Associated Press by phone. "I'm really, really happy. When you see the last was 2014, and they would wait until 2026, so you have 12 years in between — that means we have a generation of hockey players that would not be able to play in the Olympics."

Even after the NHL and players agreed to Olympic participation as part of a long-term extension of the collective bargaining agreement last summer, the coronavirus pandemic and related costs threatened to shelve that possibility. Instead, the sides figured it out, allowing for the league or players to withdraw if virus circumstances change for the worse or there's an outbreak during the season.

As long as that does not happen, NHL players will compete in the Olympic men's hockey tournament for the sixth time in seven chances dating to 1998.

"We understand how passionately NHL players feel about representing and



**In this Feb. 23, 2014, file photo, Canada forward Sidney Crosby, left, scores a goal past Sweden goaltender Henrik Lundqvist during the second period of the men's gold medal ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.**

Associated Press

competing for the countries," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said. "We are very pleased that we were able to conclude arrangements that will allow them to resume best on best on the Olympic stage."

COVID-19 insurance is not part of the agreement, though Fasel confirmed the IIHF will provide a \$5 million fund for any lost salary because of the disease. Vaccinations are expected to be required, and players will have their contracts insured for injury. U.S. coach Mike Sullivan called returning to the Olympics "such an exciting time for hockey."

He is not alone in that thinking.

Reigning NHL MVP Connor McDavid played for an under-23 "Team North America" at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey and has yet to play for Canada in a tournament of the world's best men's hockey players.

"Just to be able to represent Canada at the Olympics and compete for a

gold medal would be an absolute dream come true," McDavid told the AP this week. "It's kind of been a long time since we've been able to play best on best internationally. I think for me, and I think for a lot of guys that were on that team, it's been a long time coming. We're obviously looking forward to going to the Olympics if we're all lucky enough to make it."

It could be the first Olympics for McDavid, U.S. star Auston Matthews, 2020 playoff MVP and two-time Stanley Cup champion Victor Hedman and many others. They didn't get the opportunity three years ago, when national teams were made up mostly of college and European professional players, except for the Olympic Athletes from Russia, who won the gold medal in Pyeongchang.

"The Olympics is one of the biggest dreams of mine and I haven't been able to participate in one — this might be the last chance I get," said Hedman, who

was left off Sweden's 2014 Olympic roster. "When you get an opportunity to represent your country on the biggest stage, it is one of those things that you'll probably never forget. So yeah for me it is obviously something that I've been dreaming about my whole life and something I want to do before I hang up my skates."

In anticipation of a deal being reached, the NHL already scheduled a three-week break to take into account the Olympic tournament opening on Feb. 9. The league will still hold its All-Star weekend in Las Vegas before players fly to China on Feb. 6.

"It levels the playing field," said Hall of Fame defenseman Chris Pronger, who made his Olympic debut in 1998 and won gold with Canada in 2010. "It allows more countries to compete at a higher level. It showcases the sport."

NHL players at the Olympics became commonplace, with the IOC agree-

ing to pay travel and insurance costs and owners willing to pause the season for players to take part in the tournament. An entire generation of players grew up knowing of Olympics being a showcase for NHL stars.

"You have a dream of representing your country," said U.S. defenseman Ryan McDonagh of the Lightning. "The Olympic Games are such a unique experience, and I think they do wonders for the sport of hockey."

The IOC under President Thomas Bach would not pay assorted costs in 2018, leading the NHL to turn away from the Olympics and league officials expressing their concerns about interrupting the season. Fasel said officials worked off the 2014 agreement and then made tweaks because of the pandemic.

Players ultimately decided it was worth handling any virus restrictions in Beijing, which could go above and beyond the quarantined bubbles of the 2020 playoffs.

"I don't think there'll be anything there that we haven't seen before," Canada coach Jon Cooper said. "I do take comfort in the fact that we've been through all these different situations."

NOTES: Should the NHL opt out for COVID-19 reasons, Fasel said the Olympic tournament would proceed with participating countries sending a team made up of non-NHL players.

Such a scenario would potentially handcuff the United States and Canada, based on a limited pool of players to draw from because the tournament would interfere with the Canadian junior and U.S. college seasons. ... With the deal in place, USA Hockey filled out Sullivan's staff of assistants, which will be made up of Nashville Predators coach John Hynes, former New York Rangers coach David Quinn, Penguins assistant Todd Reirden and former NHL goalie Ryan Miller, who retired after an 18-year career last season. □

